GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:523
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2000
FARMING OF SEEDS
HARIBHAU MAHALE

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to protect the traditional rights of farmers and seed growers;

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to promote seed farming in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO)

(a)&(b): This Department has prepared the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers`Rights Bill, 1999 which was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 14.12.1999. This Bill has nowbeen referred to the Joint Committee of the Houses of Parliament for examination.The Bill seeks to protect inter-alia, farmers` traditional rights to save, use, sow, exchange, share or sell their farm produce including seeds of a variety protected under this Act provided that the farmers shall not be entitled to sell branded seed of a variety protected under this Act.

(c): This Department is implementing a number of Central Sector Schemes like Schemefor Foundation and Certified Seed Production of Vegetable Crops, Scheme forEstablishment & Maintenance of Seed Bank, Pilot Scheme for Seed Crop Insurance etc. to promote seed farming in the country.